

SENATOR BARNETT: I would go along with you Senator Dickinson but this is a first stem.

PRESIDENT: Senator C. Carsten, do you have further input?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the legislature I would like to ask Senator Barnett one more question if I may, Sir. You referred to a mandate or a sanction that was handed down by the federal government that we would loose 10% of highway funds. What legislation was that that puts this but or if in? I wasn't aware that there was anything connected with this that would defer from our.....

SENATOR BARNETT: I have three copies here like I said before and you are welcome to come back and look at them or I can possibly explain to you now. There was a letter sent to the Governor is involved with this.....lets see back in June of 73, it says and I am just reading part of it because I don't want to take the time to read all of it, you are welcome to read these. "Continued approval of fiscal year 75 and subsequent is contingent upon enactment of the following legislative items by the dates indicated in the implementation thereof within one calendar year adoption of the blood alcohol concentrations of drivers and pedestrians who die within 4 hours and over 15 years of age", is one of the sections. The Governor sent back a letter and stated to them that it looked like they were really trying to dictate policy and take away from state government. He was rather strong in his objections to this type of language. They wrote back and said that we recognize that seperation of powers does not permit a Governor to commit a legislature to action. However the highway safety act provides that a secretary shall not apportion any funds to any state which is not implementing a highway safety program approved by the Secretary. This is part of the program approved by the Secretary for Nebraska State Highway Safety Funds. Now, it doesn't just effect funds for a certain program. It may effect the rescue squads in your area because this is a highway safety thing. It may the trainning for EMT, they tie up about 50-60 things as you know with federal money and then they pull it out one at a time. Now this will be, and I have it here somewhere but I have it here on one of these letters that it has to do with about 10% of the highway construction funds in this state. That in itself is important and I would hope that we wouldn't get into that phase of it.

SENATOR CARSTEN: I don't want to get into it either, but many of us are getting a little bit tired of the Federal Government dictating our policy in these states and in doing so cut out this or that or something else because we don't. I am sympathetic to the highway safety program alright, but I still say that the federal government goes too far in their mandates and sanctions.

SENATOR BARNETT: I could back your statement 100%. I feel the same way but I also feel that in the case of this piece of legislation that it is very important to find out what is causing the accidents. Just don't say, "its alcohol", lets just don't say that it is "drugs" lets find out if it is road conditions, weather, the driver, he has been up for 24-36 hours, lets find out what is really causing them and this is the first step to try and find out.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis.